



Chapter 7

Technology Student

Association (TSA)

MISSOURI TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION GUIDE
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Technology Student Association¹

"Learning to live in a technical world"

1. Introduction

Missouri TSA is a non-profit organization devoted to the needs of students in technology education. Missouri TSA serves over 3,000 middle and high school students in 30 local school district chapters. TSA, one of the fastest growing student organizations in Missouri, has doubled its membership each year in the past three years.

Our mission is to prepare our membership for the challenges of our dynamic world by promoting technological literacy, leadership, and problem solving skills, providing personal growth and maximizing their opportunities. Teachers are eligible to use TSA activities in the classrooms to extend the learning beyond traditional classroom experiences.

2. Why Have a TSA Chapter?

As a teacher, why should you have a TSA chapter? Below is an article written by a skeptical teacher on the subject of becoming an advisor to the Technology Student Association:

A New Perspective -- Preston County Educational Center TSA²

A friend recently asked me to be a TSA advisor. I tried to ignore the constant urging, but he wouldn't change his tune. For two years he had asked me to attend the Fall Conference. "Bring a couple students with you," he said. This year, the plan was to take him up on the offer, drag a few students along, and depart the conference with a sigh of "I'm sure glad it's over" relief. Boy, was I in for an awakening! After a session titled "What is TSA?" I was bombarded with many questions. These students? No--they're just appeasing me. But later in the day, I was really flattened. I slipped in the back door where students were involved in some activities. Where were my guys? They were with their new friends working. I got the "thumbs up" sign from one of them--they were competing--and loving every minute of it!

¹ Source: http://dese.mo.gov/divcareerred//teched_mo_tsa.htm , MODESE, Tech Ed web site

² Source: <http://www.wvtsa.org/> West Virginia TSA web site

The last day, I divided our little clan up so that we could attend different sessions.

I gave each one of them a small notebook and told them to take notes for our vocational director. Not only did they gather materials and take good notes, but they had to tell me about all of them! Quiet them down??? Boy, this was a switch! I really didn't want to be a TSA advisor.

What began as a stunt to stifle my friend from badgering me about TSA back-fired. And I'm sure glad it did. I'm surprised that a veteran educator could have been such a lethargic judge of opportunity.

Since returning from the conference, my students have organized a chapter. I'm very proud of them. They come to class more enthusiastic and eager to learn than ever before. They want their parents involved. A recent PTA conference was scheduled from 4-7 p.m. Due to such a large turnout, the meeting lasted until 8:30!

What do I get out of being a TSA advisor? More motivated students and enthusiastic parents. Sounds like a winning combination to me.

*Tom Strahin
Advisor Preston County
West Virginia*

3. About TSA

Purpose and Philosophy

The Technology Student Association provides opportunities for leadership development and training through involvement in a variety of activities. TSA promotes technology education as an integral part of the total education system. Knowledge is increased and broadened as members are informed of developments in technology. Student respect is inspired for the dignity of technology in our society. TSA encourages scholastic motivation by providing opportunities to integrate and use the knowledge and skill of other education disciplines.

Chapter activities are considered an essential and integral part of the students' development. TSA believes that every student should enter a dynamic world as leaders who are technologically literate and possess the ability to solve problems.

How TSA Develops Students

TSA uses several methods to help students with personal development. They are the leadership development program, competitive events, achievement program, and a national service project. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

Leadership Development Program

Such vital areas as public speaking, chapter team competition, group dynamics and cooperation with others are all essential parts of the TSA program. In addition, the TSA

member has the opportunity to take part in local, district, state and national leadership conferences which offer the opportunity to improve on personal excellence. TSA believes students should provide leadership in activities which affect their school, community, work, and nation.

Competitive Events

TSA members compete in a variety of technology categories ranging from Aerospace Technology to Technical Research and Report Writing. There are two levels of competition for grades 6-12. Level I is for 6th through 9th grade and level II is for 9th through 12th grade. During the awards ceremonies the top ten finalist in each event are recognized on the platform and TSA awards the winners in each event with a first second and third place recognition.

Technology Achievement Program

The achievement Program is a self-initiated program designed to motivate students in their technology education programs and to be recognized for their efforts in leadership development, school/community service, understanding of technology, and career/personal planning. It is composed of three levels: bronze, silver, and gold. The first level of bronze is achieved at the local level, the second level of silver is achieved at the state level, and the third level of gold is achieved at the national level. Points are accumulated through a variety of projects and activities.

National Service Project

TSA promotes service to the community by carefully selecting a national organization as its service partner. TSA's partner is now the American Cancer Society. Find out how your chapter can become involved by clicking on: [American Cancer Society](#).

TSA chapter activities are an integral part of the school technology education program and provide added dimension to school/community activities. TSA activities enhance the instructor's means of creating technology related challenges that benefit the student. TSA increases the opportunity for individual growth and participation in an environment.

4. Mission

The mission of the Technology Student Association is to prepare our membership for the challenges of a dynamic world by promoting technological literacy, leadership, and problem solving, resulting in personal growth and opportunities.

5. Goals of Technology Education

Because technology is an integral part of the American Culture, it is necessary for schools to provide students with an appreciation and understanding of the role and dynamics of technology in our society. Technology springs from the human abilities to reason, solve problems, create, construct, and use materials imaginatively. The study of technology, integrated into the school curricula, promotes the development of these

abilities and prepares students for a fulfilled and responsible adulthood.

Technology education goals at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels focus on students acquiring specific abilities and perspectives.

1. Through the use of tools, materials, and the design and technology process, student learning at the elementary level will be enhanced and contribute to overall personal development and technological awareness.
2. Students at the middle school level will gain a greater understanding of technology's role in contemporary society, including future career opportunities and related programs of study.
3. Technological skills and knowledge attained by students at the high school level will yield occupational readiness, consumer awareness, and personal enrichment.
4. Student members of the Technology Student Association (TSA) will develop leadership skills, pride in work well done, and high standards of technical ability, scholarship, and safety.

6. There are Many Benefits to Having a TSA Chapter

- Opportunity is a key benefit. Members can:
 - Learn new skills and try new things
 - Meet and work with other students and leaders of industry
 - Receive prestige and recognition
 - Gain information about various occupational and career choices
 - Enhance individual growth and develop life-long leadership skills
- Enrollment in technology education classes increases with interest in TSA.
- Student interests broaden due to increased opportunities.
- Recognition of student accomplishments in technology increases the visibility of your program.
- Financial support grows as business leaders, school boards, and industries recognize the importance of TSA.

7. Official Charter Information

The charter application process is an exciting moment which benchmarks the first steps of achievement in your chapter's historical pilgrimage toward excellence in Leadership. Please read these guidelines carefully to ensure that your chapter application is processed correctly and in a timely manner. You can access the charter application at:

http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered//tsa_official_charter_info.htm

8. Starting a TSA Chapter

Starting a chapter is easy if you lay some groundwork. First, learn all about TSA and what it offers. Without proper preparation, you could be up against administrative opposition or be unable to ignite the interest of your students.

What is TSA? What can TSA do for you, your students and your school? If you know the answers to questions like these, then you'll be able to dispel doubts your principal or students may have about starting a chapter.

9. Ten Steps to Starting a TSA Chapter

There are ten steps to starting a TSA chapter. The following is a brief list of these step. You can view an expanded list at:

http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered//tsa_information.htm

- I. The organizing committee**
- II. The recruitment meeting**
- III. The membership drive**
- IV. Officer elections**
- V. The officers' first order of business**
- VI. Chapter committees**
- VII. Develop a Calendar of Activities**
- VIII. Vote on the Calendar of Activities**
- IX. Get the necessary materials**
- X. The advisor's continuing role**

10. Curriculum Event Information

Follow the link below to look at:

High School Program Event Information
Middle School Program Event Information
Competitive Event Themes

http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered//tsa_resources.htm

11. TSA's History

To view the historical information of TSA go to:

<http://www.tsaweb.org/get.php?page=/about/history.html>

12. TSA Publications Online

To view the TSA Publications and ordering information Online go to:

<http://www.tsaweb.org/get.php?page=/publications/>

The greatest pitfall for advisors is doing all the work alone. Not only is this unfair, but it wears them out and deprives the students of the rewards of running a chapter. Let students run the show!

For more information, contact any of the Missouri TSA Inc., Board of Directors

To view the contact information for the Missouri TSA Inc., go to:

http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered//tsa_board_of_directors.htm